

History-Social Science Subject Matter Committee
Instructional Quality Commission
California Department of Education

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for making some of the changes that we proposed in our November 25, 2014 email. We are disappointed that many changes were not implemented.

We are particularly concerned with the following:

1. failure to recognize the genocide of the Poles (and of the Romani). The 'other' victims are listed as, "Jehovah's Witnesses, Poles, Gypsies, homosexuals, and political activists" (Chapter 15, p. 470, lines 929-930). It should say, "The Poles and Romani were victims of genocide." The term "Gypsies" is considered a racial slur by the Romanis. See:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romani_people

http://www.radoc.net/radoc.php?doc=art_e_holocaust_porrajmos&lang=en&articles=true

Hitler's long-term plans were to destroy the Slavic race, close to 300,000,000 people. Fortunately, the defeat of Germany cut those plans short, but not in time to save Hitler's first Slavic victims, the Poles, from genocide. The Board of Education recognized the Polish Genocide (over the vehement objections of then-Superintendent Bill Honig) in 1987. ***California Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide***. California Department of Education, Sacramento, California, 1988 and 2000, page 2 and pages 53-54, available online at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/im/documents/modelcurrichrgenoc.pdf>

See also: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_crimes_against_the_Polish_nation

Count Three of the Nuremberg indictment charged that the defendants, "conducted deliberate and systematic genocide, viz., the extermination of racial and national groups, against the civilian populations of certain occupied territories in order to destroy particular races and classes of people and national, racial, or religious groups, particularly Jews, Poles, and Gypsies and others." [emphasis added] See <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/count3.asp>

A description of the Polish and Romani genocides should be added.

2. complete omission of the Warsaw Uprising (1944 uprising against the Germans that resulted in the death of about 200,000 civilians and the destruction of the entire city. To be distinguished from the 1943 uprising in the ghetto created by the Nazis in Warsaw to hold Jews.) It was "the largest single military effort taken by any European resistance movement during World War II."

See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warsaw_Uprising and p. 54 of the ***Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide***.

It is ironic that the draft states: "By the end of the war, approximately 1,000,000 civilians had died and Manila became the second most devastated city in the world after Warsaw." (Chap. 16, p. 540, lines 724-25).

3. the removal of (now Saint) Pope John Paul II. The previous draft of the Framework contained the following statements:

"Students can analyze why communism collapsed and study the governments that arose in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, through a focus on the contributions of leading reformers, such as Alexander Solzenitsyn, Pope John Paul II, Lech Walesa, and Vaclav Havel." (previous draft, Chap. 5, p. 379, lines 2641-42), and;

"Describe the ideologies that give rise to Communism, methods of maintaining control, and the movements to overthrow such governments in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland, including the roles of individuals (e.g., Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Pope John Paul II, Lech Walesa, Vaclav Havel)." (previous draft, Chap. 5, p. 389, lines 2858-59)

4. the suggestion of anti-Christian or anti-Catholic bias. Why was any mention of John Paul deleted from the draft? Why, despite objections, does the designation of dates using CE and BCE continue (instead of BC and AD)? Galileo is mentioned only by name in the previous draft: Chap. 4, p. 211, lines 1715-16, and p. 223, line 1974. In the current draft, Copernicus, Kepler, and Newton are mentioned only by name, but the following was added after Galileo's name: "(a physicist and astronomer who was charged with heresy by the Catholic Church for his public support of Copernicus' theory that the earth revolved around the sun; he spent his final days under house arrest)." Chap.11, p. 310, lines 1622-26. Why was this gratuitous remark added?

Sincerely,

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